

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A heat-sealable multi-ply filter material, comprising: at least one ply of said filter material containing natural fibers and one ply of said filter material containing biodegradable, thermoplastic fibers made of a member selected from the group consisting of aliphatic polyesteramides, partially aromatic polyesteramides, aliphatic polyesters, partially aromatic polyesters, aliphatic polyesterurethanes, partially aromatic polyesterurethanes, aliphatic polycarbonates and aliphatic-aromatic polycarbonates; ~~and a second ply, wherein~~ said ply containing natural fibers and said ply containing biodegradable, thermoplastic fibers are connected by interpenetration of said thermoplastic fibers and said natural fibers ~~to form pores~~.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Previously presented) A filter material according to Claim 1 wherein said natural fibers comprise a mixture of coniferous wood, deciduous wood, manilla, hemp, jute and sisal.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A filter material according to Claim 1 wherein one ply containing natural fibers has a basis weight of between 8 and 40 g/m² and an air permeability of 300 to 4000 l/m²·sec (DIN 53 887).

Claim 5. (Previously presented) A filter material according to Claim 1 wherein one ply containing biodegradable thermoplastic fibers has a basis weight of 1 to 15 g/m².

Claims 6 – 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The filter material of Claim 1 wherein thermoplastic fibers are made of aliphatic polyesteramides.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The filter material of Claim 1 wherein thermoplastic fibers are made of partially aromatic polyesteramides.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The filter material of Claim 1 wherein thermoplastic fibers are made of aliphatic polyesters.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The filter material of Claim 1 wherein thermoplastic fibers are made of partially aromatic polyesters.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The filter material of Claim 1 wherein thermoplastic fibers are made of aliphatic polyesterurethanes.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The filter material of Claim 1 wherein thermoplastic fibers are made of partially aromatic polyesterurethanes.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The filter material of Claim 1 wherein thermoplastic fibers are made of aliphatic polycarbonate.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The filter material of Claim 1 wherein thermoplastic fibers are made of aliphatic-aromatic polycarbonate.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A tea bag comprising the filter material of Claim 1.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A coffee bag comprising the filter material of Claim 1.